

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1805

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S VISIT - TOPICS OF CONVERSATION WITH THE
PRESIDENT.

REF: CARCAS 1451

1. AT DINNER LAST NIGHT THE FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD ME HE THOUGHT THE QUESTION OF US "RETALIATION" AGAINST NATIONS WHOSE VOTES IN THE UN DISPLEASE US WOULD COME UP PRIVATELY AS WELL AS PUBLICLY DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. ESCOVAR NOTED THE CHARGES AIRED HERE (AGAIN TODAY BY THE LEFT-WING MEP) THAT WE ARE PURSUING A POLICY OF THREATS AND COERCION, I REPLIED THAT, ON THE CONTRARY, AND AS I HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPLAINED TO HIM, WE ARE MERELY MAKING THE OBVIOUS POINT THAT THE ACTIONS OF OTHER STATES IN INTERNATIONAL FORA INEVITABLY IMPACT ON THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE US. THE MINISTER COMMENTED THAT GREAT POWERS SHOULD SOMETIMES SIMPLY DO WHAT THEY HAVE TO DO WITHOUT TALKING ABOUT IT.

2. ESCOVAR ALSO THOUGHT THAT WHAT IS PERCEIVED HERE AS THE USG'S OVER-IDENTIFICATION WITH THE MULTINATIONALS MIGHT ARISE IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER. (COLUMNIST LUIS ESTEBAN REY SUGGESTED IN EL UNIVERSAL TODAY THAT "IT WOULD BE VERY INTERESTING FOR KISSINGER TO EXPLAIN TO US WHY A DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF THE US ECHOED THE VERSION OF THE OIL COMPANIES THAT USED TO OPERATE IN OUR COUNTRY TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY HAD BEEN 'DESPOILED' BY THE VENEZUELAN STATE IN THE PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION." THIS
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IS ANOTHER REFERENCE TO MY EXPLANATION TO THE PRESIDENT THAT THE

TWO GOVTS DIFFERED ON THE STANDARD OF COMPENSATION. PEREZ KNOWS I DID NOT USE THE WORD "DESPOILED" OR ANYTHING LIKE IT. THE PRESIDENT HAS NO PROBLEM WITH THE MATTER BUT REY LIKES TO WORRY IT.

3. ESCOVAR AGAIN STRESSED THE GOV'S PREOCCUPATION WITH CUBA'S GUYANA CONNECTION. HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE SITUATION IN THE LATTER COUNTRY IS "DANGEROUS." HE SAID HE WOULD BE ISSUING A STATEMENT TODAY CRITICAL OF CUBA'S INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. THE STATEMENT SEEMS TO BE NEEDED BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT'S CRITICAL REMARKS IN THE TRUDEAU TOAST (REF) WERE NEVER PICKED UP BY THE LOCAL MEDIA. THE TIMING WAS DETERMINED BY A DESIRE TO AVOID ANY IMPRESSION THAT THE SECRETARY MIGHT HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GOV'S POSITION.

4. THE MINISTER REFLECTED WHAT I SUSPECT IS SOME NERVOUSNESS ON THE PART OF THE PRESIDENT OVER HIS FORTHCOMING PRIVATE ENCOUNTER WITH THE SECRETARY TUESDAY MORNING. ESCOVAR OFFERED THE HOPE THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD TAKE THE EARLY LEAD IN THE CONVERSATION SO AS TO CREATE THE RIGHT "PSYCHOLOGICAL ATMOSPHERE."
SHLAUDEMAN

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